

LEIA'S IMPOSSIBLE MISSION!

STAR WARS

MARVEL 36



SOULE
DI VITO
ROSENBERG

THE TRIAL RUN

After being hunted almost to extinction by the evil GALACTIC EMPIRE, the REBEL ALLIANCE finally has an opportunity to strike back!

GENERAL LEIA ORGANA, with the help of LUKE SKYWALKER, has discovered a key weakness in the Empire's defenses that could allow for a single, desperate mission.

Success could rally the galaxy to the cause of the Alliance. Failure would mean disaster....

CHARLES SOULE
Writer

ANDREA DI VITO
Guest Artist

RACHELLE ROSENBERG
Colorist

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
Letterer

STEPHEN SEGOVIA & RAIN BEREDO
Cover Artists

JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER (Action Figure); CHRIS SPROUSE, KARL STORY & NEERAJ MENON (Return of the Jedi 40th Anniversary); JERRY ORDWAY & NOLAN WOODARD (Classic Trade Dress); LEE GARBETT & LAURA MARTIN
Variant Cover Artists

MIKEY J. BASSO
Assistant Editor

DANNY KHAZEM
Associate Editor

MARK PANICCIA
Editor

C.B. CEBULSKI
Editor in Chief

For Lucasfilm:

Senior Editor ROBERT SIMPSON

Creative Director MICHAEL SIGLAIN

Art Director TROY ALDERS

Lucasfilm Story Group MATT MARTIN, PABLO HIDALGO & EMILY SHKOUKANI

Creative Art Manager PHIL SZOSTAK



Home One. Flagship of the Rebel Alliance fleet.

WE HAVE BEEN PRESENTED WITH AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY.

BASED ON INTELLIGENCE PROVIDED BY LUKE SKYWALKER, WE KNOW THAT BOTH DARTH VADER AND EMPEROR PALPATINE ARE MOST LIKELY DISTRACTED BY AN ANOMALY IN THE FORCE.

WHILE THE ANOMALY PERSISTS, THEY WILL NOT BE ATTENDING TO THE EMPIRE WITH THEIR USUAL LEVEL OF...*FOCUS*.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, GENERAL ORGANA...

...DOES IT MATTER?



THE EMPEROR AND VADER MIGHT BE OFF THEIR GAME, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE **EMPIRE** IS SUDDENLY WEAK.

THEY HAVE **COUNTLESS** OFFICERS, PILOTS AND SOLDIERS.

THAT'S TRUE, **CAPTAIN ROWNE**-- BUT COMMANDS COME FROM THE TOP. THE OPPORTUNITY HERE IS TWOFOLD.



FIRST, WE HAVE A CHANCE TO **RATTLE** VADER AND PALPATINE WHEN THEY'RE ALREADY SHAKEN. WE'LL PUSH THEM FURTHER OFF-BALANCE THAN THEY ALREADY ARE.

SECOND, WE CAN REMIND THE GALAXY THAT THE ALLIANCE PERSISTS--THAT WE ARE STRONG, WE ARE UNAFRAID.

WE DID IT WHEN WE ATTACKED THAT PARADE ON BAR'LETH.* THIS WILL BE BIGGER. IT WILL INSPIRE ACTS OF REBELLION ACROSS THE GALAXY.

*SEE **STAR WARS** #26! --ED



WE'RE ALL ON THE EDGE OF OUR SEATS, GENERAL. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND?

OF COURSE, **CAPTAIN ANTILLES**.

THE IMPACT OF THE MISSION I'M PROPOSING WILL BE MILITARILY MINOR BUT PSYCHOLOGICALLY ENORMOUS.

THIS TIME, MY FRIENDS...



...WE'LL HIT PALPATINE WHERE HE LIVES.



YOU ARE THE ELITE PILOTS OF THE REBEL ALLIANCE, THOSE NOT CURRENTLY TASKED WITH OTHER CRUCIAL MISSIONS.

YOU ARE THE BEST OF THE BEST. THIS MISSION WILL BE DIFFICULT-- BUT IT IS **NOT** IMPOSSIBLE. NOT FOR YOU.

NOW... I AM ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS.

GENERAL... IF I MAY?

YOU'RE SUGGESTING AN AERIAL ASSAULT ON **CORUSCANT**. THE CENTER OF IMPERIAL POWER. THE MOST HEAVILY DEFENDED PLANET IN THE GALAXY.

ORBITAL-DEFENSE PLATFORMS, BATTALIONS OF FIGHTERS, GROUND-TO-AIR MISSILE BATTERIES.

WE WON'T GET ANYWHERE NEAR IT--NOT UNLESS YOU'VE GOT FIVE OR SIX ADDITIONAL FLEETS YOU'VE NEGLECTED TO MENTION.



I WISH, **SHARA**. BUT THIS IS A MISSION FOR A FEW VERY FAST, VERY NIMBLE SHIPS. THIS ISN'T A BLUNT-FORCE ATTACK. IT'S SURGICAL.

ADMIRAL ACKBAR, IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND?

THIS IS THE ATTACK PLAN.

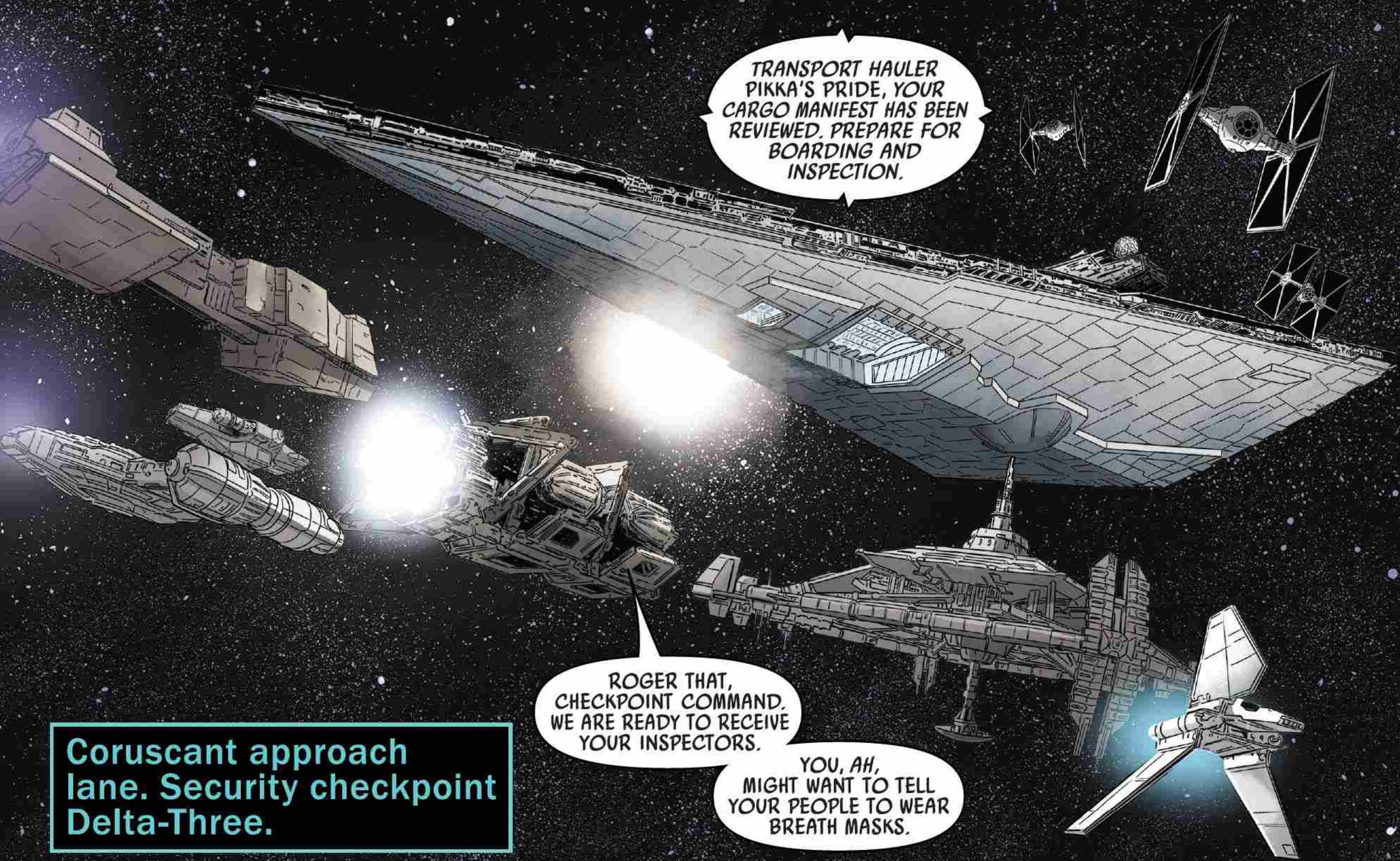
AS YOU CAN SEE... COMPLEX...BUT IT TAKES ADVANTAGE OF A NUMBER OF WEAKNESSES IN CORUSCANT'S SECURITY NET.

IT'S DOABLE.

THIS IS THE PLAN?

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.





TRANSPORT HAULER PIKKA'S PRIDE, YOUR CARGO MANIFEST HAS BEEN REVIEWED. PREPARE FOR BOARDING AND INSPECTION.

ROGER THAT, CHECKPOINT COMMAND. WE ARE READY TO RECEIVE YOUR INSPECTORS.

YOU, AH, MIGHT WANT TO TELL YOUR PEOPLE TO WEAR BREATH MASKS.

Coruscant approach lane. Security checkpoint Delta-Three.



THAT...THAT ODOR. IT'S HORRIBLE.

YOUR MANIFEST STATED YOU WERE CARRYING ORGANIC CATALYSTS--FERTILIZER FOR THE ALGAE FARMS. WHAT IS ALL THIS?

TOLD YOU TO WEAR A MASK. THIS IS FERTILIZER FOR THE ALGAE FARMS. IT'S A NEW FORMULATION--WE HAVE TO KEEP IT IN MOTION SO IT DOESN'T GO STAGNANT.

THAT'S WHY WE CAN'T JUST TANK IT AND WHY THOSE DROIDS KEEP STIRRING IT.



IT'S A LITTLE FRAGRANT, I AGREE...BUT YOU WON'T TASTE IT IN THE FINISHED PRODUCT. OR SO THEY TELL ME.

UGH. NO FURTHER DETAILS. I HAVE TO EAT THAT STUFF.

YOU'RE CLEARED TO PROCEED.



MUCH OBLIGED, SIR.



WE'RE THROUGH
THE CHECKPOINT
AND APPROACHING
THE FARMING
PLATFORM.

THIS IS
ABOUT AS CLOSE AS I
CAN GET YOU TO **CORUSCANT**
WITHOUT ATTRACTING ATTENTION FROM
ONE OF THOSE STAR DESTROYERS.

ACKNOWLEDGED.
WE APPRECIATE
EVERYTHING YOU'VE
DONE TO GET
US THIS FAR.

DON'T TAKE ANY
UNNECESSARY RISKS.



WELL, THAT'S THE THING,
ISN'T IT? WE'RE **REBELS**.

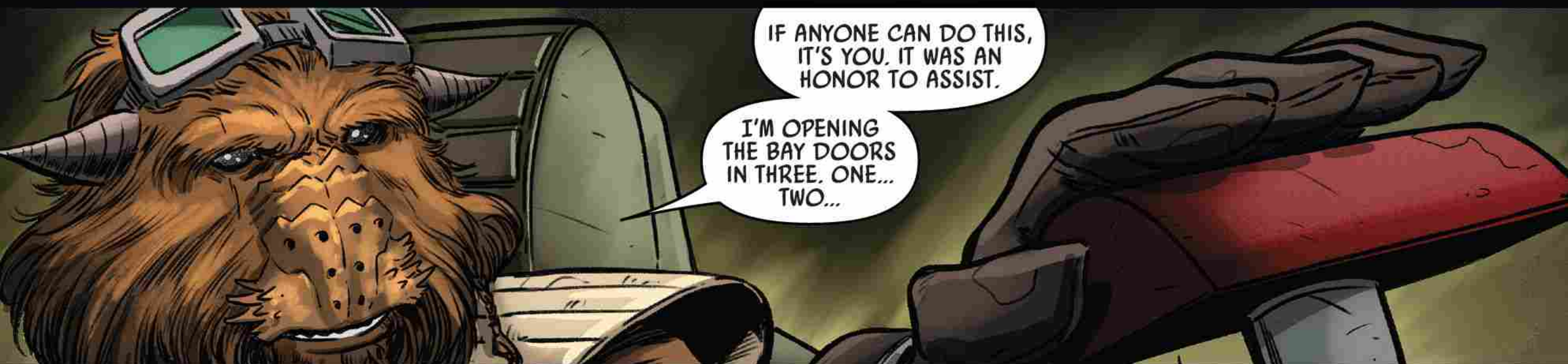
IT'S **ALL**
RISKY, AND IT'S **ALL**
NECESSARY.



ANYWAY--I GOT YOU PAST
THE EMPIRE'S FIRST LINE OF
DEFENSE, BUT YOU'LL STILL
HAVE TO GET PAST THE
ORBITAL DEFENSES.

OH, WE'RE
AWARE. ACKBAR'S
BRIEFING WAS VERY
COMPREHENSIVE.

WE'LL PUSH
THE THROTTLES TO MAX
AND HOPE THEIR TARGETING
COMPUTERS AREN'T FAST
ENOUGH TO KEEP UP.



IF ANYONE CAN DO THIS,
IT'S YOU. IT WAS AN
HONOR TO ASSIST.

I'M OPENING
THE BAY DOORS
IN THREE. ONE...
TWO...



"...MAY THE
FORCE BE
WITH YOU."



WE'RE
NEVER GOING
TO GET THE STINK
OUT OF THIS
SHIP.



TRAGIC.
THIS THING USED
TO BE BEAUTIFUL.
REMEMBER,
CHEWIE?

HR0000.

IT'S ALWAYS
GOOD TO HAVE THE
MILLENNIUM FALCON
ALONG, LANDO--BUT I WAS
A LITTLE SURPRISED YOU
VOLUNTEERED FOR
THIS MISSION.



DOESN'T
SEEM LIKE YOUR KIND
OF THING.

MAYBE YOU
DON'T KNOW ME AS
WELL AS YOU THINK,
FREYTA.

THE EMPIRE
STOLE MY LIVELIHOOD,
BETRAYED ME...AND THEY'VE
DONE THAT AND WORSE TO
PEOPLE ACROSS THE GALAXY
FOR GENERATIONS.

STICKING
A THUMB IN THE
EMPEROR'S EYE SEEMS
LIKE A WORTHWHILE USE
OF MY TIME. AND YOU
KNOW WHAT?



I'M JUST GETTING STARTED.

Coruscant. Imperial Inspectorate Command Center.

WE'RE TRACKING FOUR SHIPS ON A FAST-ATTACK VECTOR TOWARD THE PLANET, SIR.

THREE REBEL ALLIANCE A-WINGS AND A YT-1300 FREIGHTER WE HAVE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED AS THE *MILLENNIUM FALCON*.

THAT IS... SURPRISING, LIEUTENANT. FOUR FIGHTERS AGAINST THE ENTIRE DEFENSE NET? WELL.

THEY MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF *PLAN*--AND UNLIKE SOME, I DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE REBELS' CUNNING.

A SQUADRON NOT MUCH LARGER DESTROYED THE *DEATH STAR*, AFTER ALL.



ACTIVATE THE ORBITAL PLATFORMS, AND SCRAMBLE HALF OF THE PLANETARY-DEFENSE FIGHTER WINGS.

THEIR PLAN WON'T WORK IF THEY'RE DEAD. *DESTROY THEM.*

RIGHT AWAY.



ALL RIGHT, TEAM. TIME TO SHOW THESE IMPERIALS HOW THIS IS GOING TO WORK.

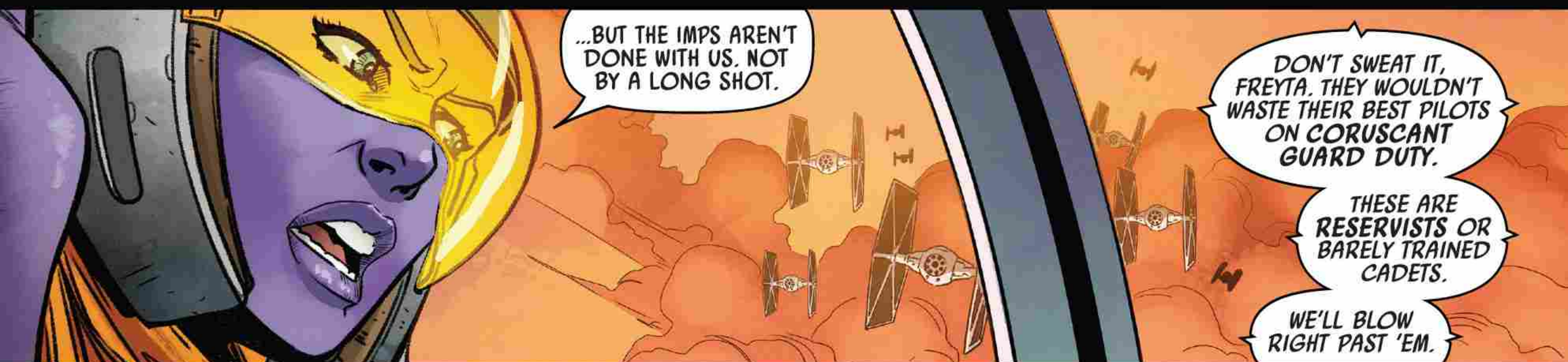
THEY MAY HAVE THE GUNS...





WE CAN STILL GET THIS DONE. JUST STICK TO THE PLAN. WE'RE PAST THE PRIMARY DEFENSE NET.

WE BEAT THE PLATFORMS, CALRISSIAN...



...BUT THE IMPS AREN'T DONE WITH US. NOT BY A LONG SHOT.

DON'T SWEAT IT, FREYA. THEY WOULDN'T WASTE THEIR BEST PILOTS ON CORUSCANT GUARD DUTY.

THESE ARE RESERVISTS OR BARELY TRAINED CADETS.

WE'LL BLOW RIGHT PAST 'EM.



THERE'S OUR TARGET. GENERAL ORGANA'S INTELLIGENCE REPORTS WERE DEAD-ON.

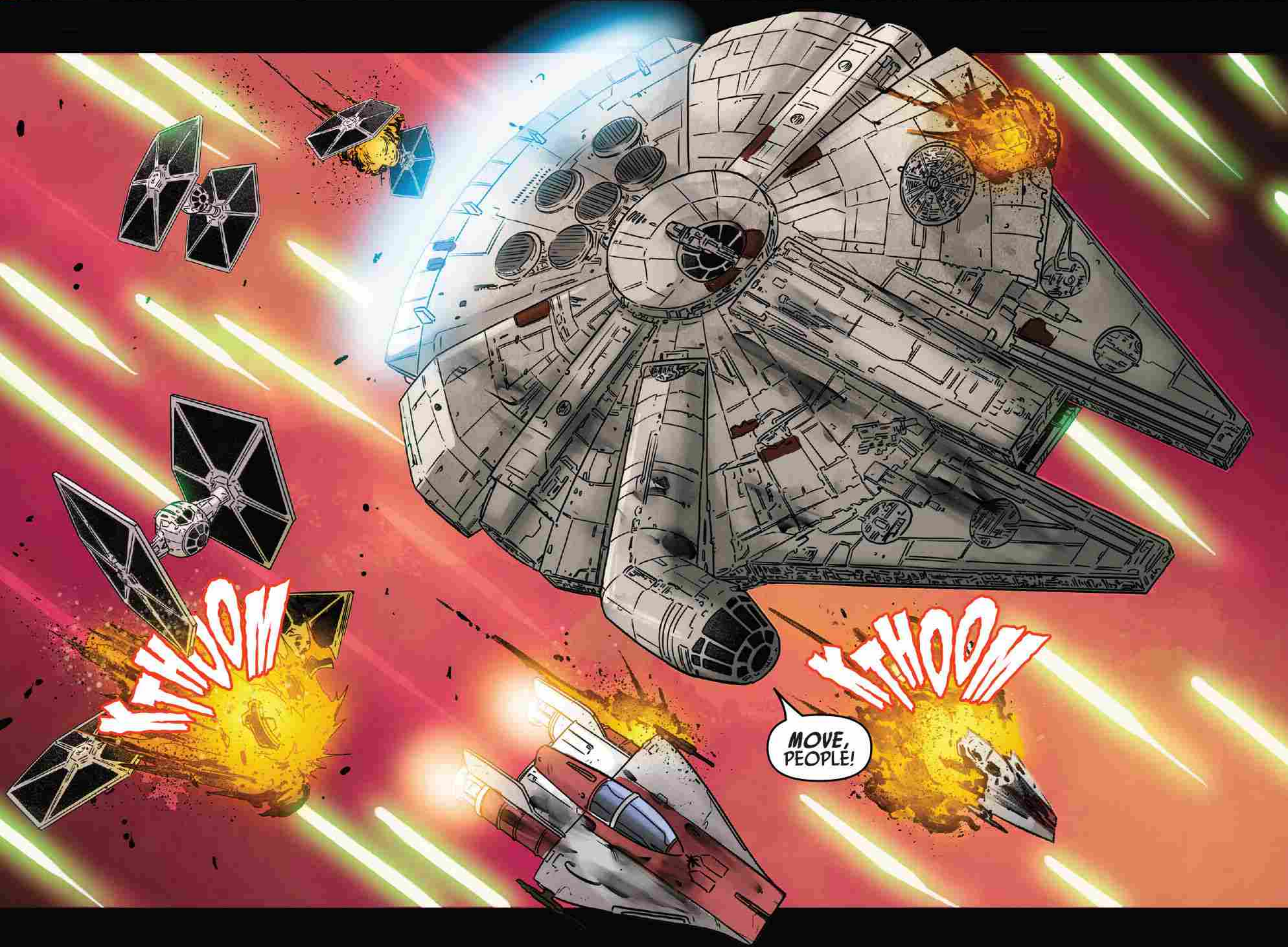
THEY'VE BANNED CIVILIANS FROM MONUMENT PLAZA AFTER WE HIT THAT EMPIRE-DAY PARADE. TOO WORRIED ABOUT TERRORIST ATTACKS.

PERFECT. MEANS WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT COLLATERAL DAMAGE.

HEADING IN FOR OUR ATTACK RUN. THERE'S NOTHING IN OUR--



OH NO.





THAT
BLASTED STATUE
WAS *BAIT*.

AND WE
FELL FOR IT...
LIKE A BUNCH OF
SUCKERS.



HKKKTAAAAH!



NIEN NUNB'S NOT GONNA
MAKE IT. WE'VE GOTTA
TRY TO HELP.

HRROOH?



I'VE
GOT AN IDEA,
BUT *NOBODY'S*
GONNA LIKE
IT.

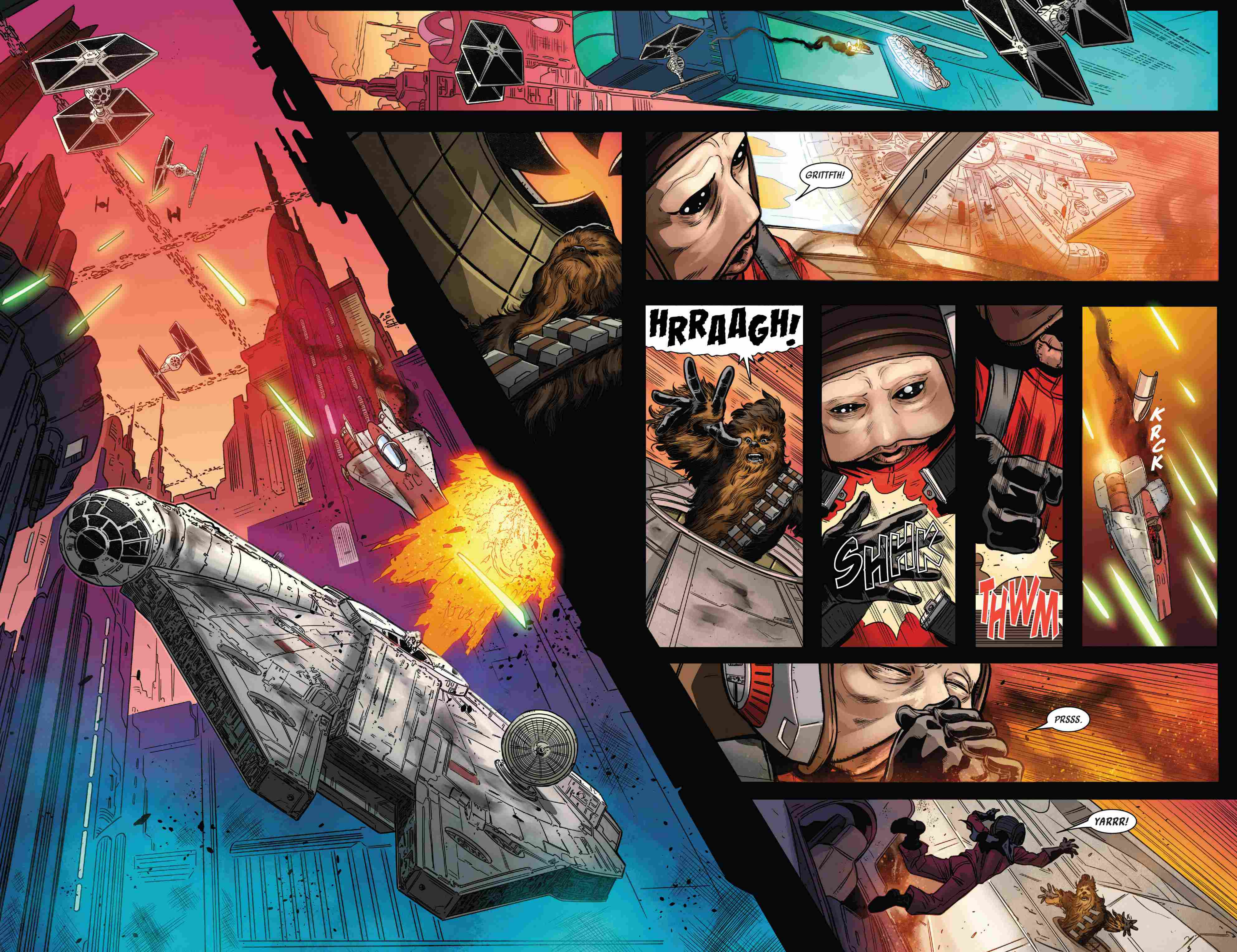
I'LL TAKE OVER
THE CONTROLS,
CHEWBACCA.



NIEN NUNB--
WE'RE GOING TO
STICK WITH THE PLAN--
BUT WITH ONE SMALL
ADJUSTMENT. JUST
FOLLOW MY LEAD
AND STAY
COOL.

I'M
SENDING THE
WOOKIEE.

THHINJ?







OH MAN.
THAT AIN'T
GOOD.



YOU EVER FLOWN
ONE OF THESE?

HNNH.

WELL, LET'S
HOPE YOU'RE A
QUICK LEARNER.



THE PLAN'S THE SAME, NIEN. WE GO
DOWN, AS FAR AS WE CAN, TO THE
DEEPEST LEVELS. NO SENSORS
DOWN THERE.

ONCE WE
SHAKE THESE GUYS
ON OUR TAIL, WE HEAD
BACK UP AND OUT THE
OTHER SIDE OF THE
PLANET WITH A NICE
HEAD START.

IF WE KEEP
OUR FOCUS, WE'LL
BE IN HYPERSPACE
BEFORE THEY CAN
SCRAMBLE MORE
FIGHTERS TO
CATCH US.

THIRS
SEFT HBUUP
TRENT!

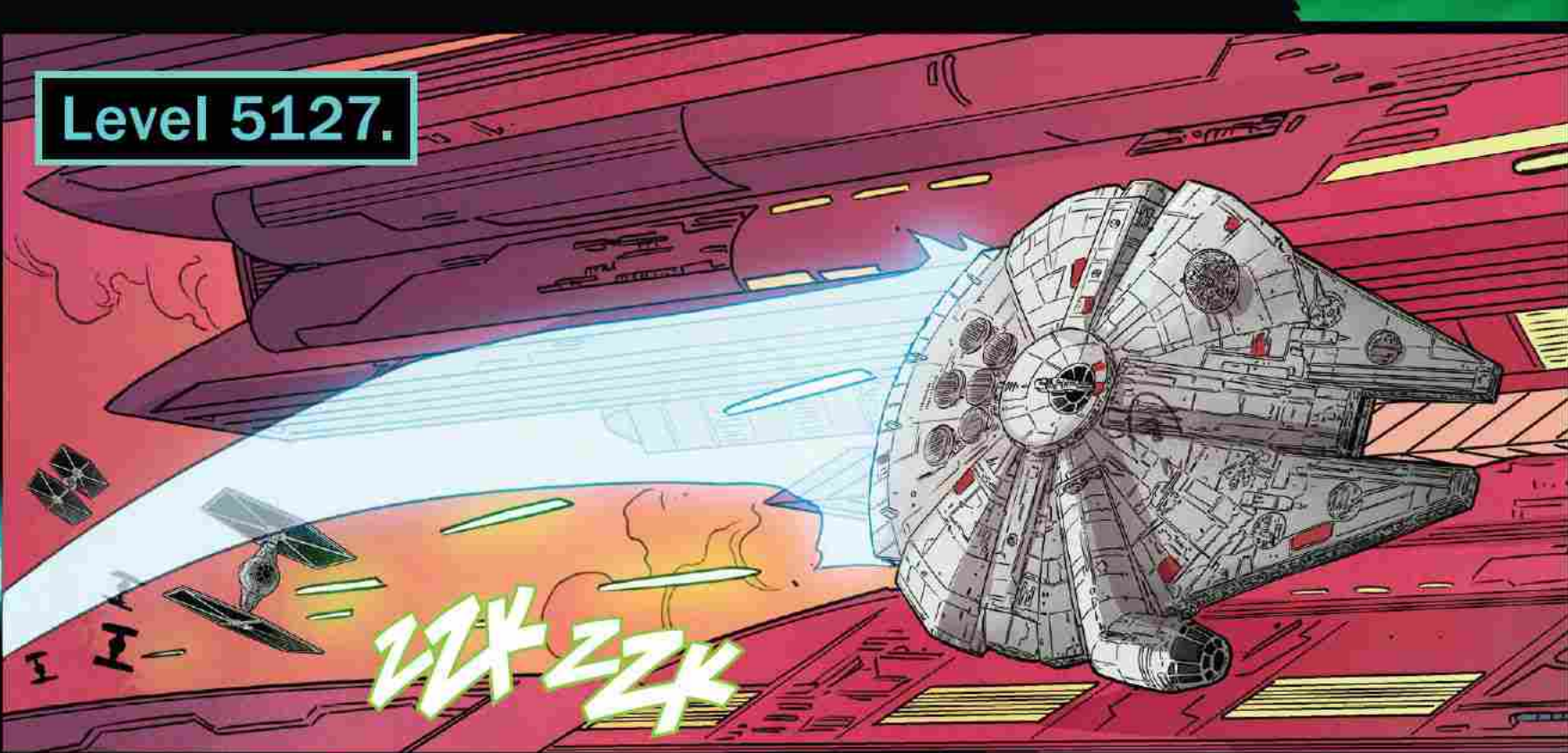


I SAID
EXACTLY THE
SAME THING WHEN
ACKBAR LAID IT
OUT, PAL.

BUT ACCORDING
TO HIM--THE ADMIRAL
WHO DOESN'T ACTUALLY
HAVE TO DO IT--



--IT'S
DOABLE.





Level 128.



TOO CLOSE. AND WE'RE NOT DONE YET. AS SOON AS WE HIT THE ATMOSPHERE, WE'LL HEAD STRAIGHT FOR THE EDGE OF THE GRAVITY WELL AND GET OUT OF HERE.

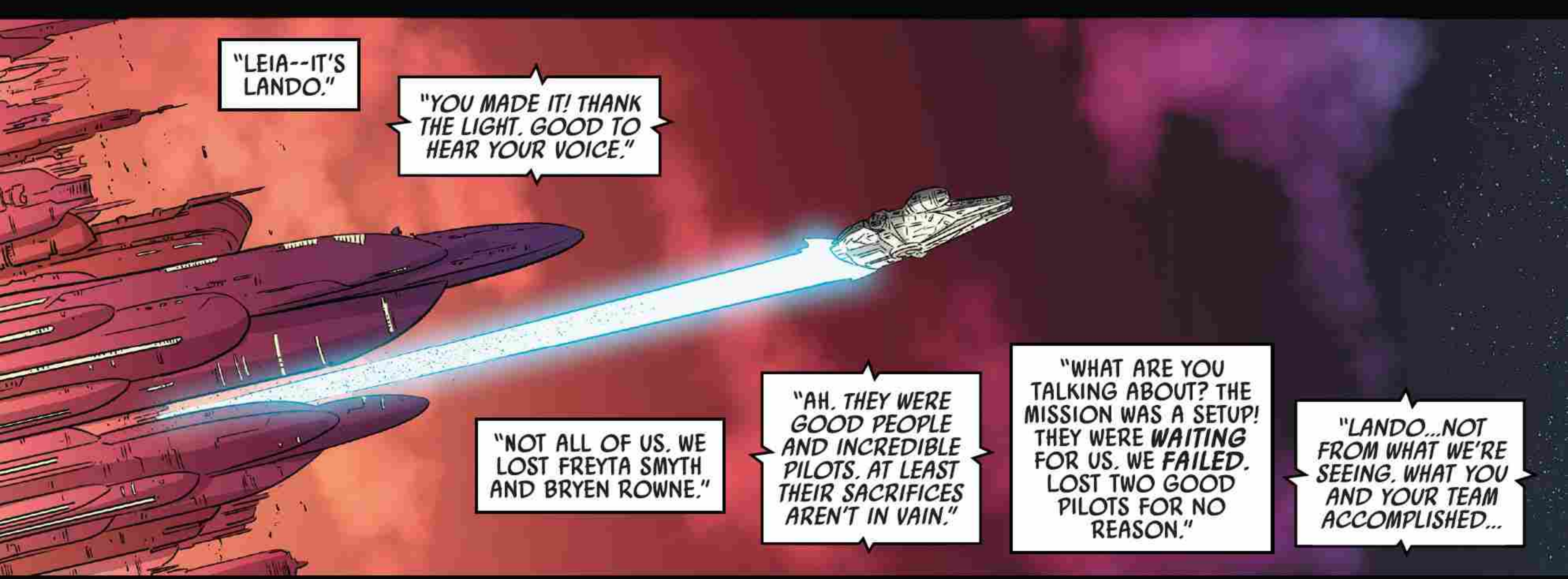
LET'S JUST HOPE WE STAY LUCKY FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.

PTTK FROTH JRRDU, LANDO.



WHY, THANK YOU--THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU TO SAY.

THE FEELING'S MUTUAL. YOU CAN CO-PILOT THE FALCON WITH ME ANY TIME, NIEN NUNB.



"LEIA--IT'S LANDO."

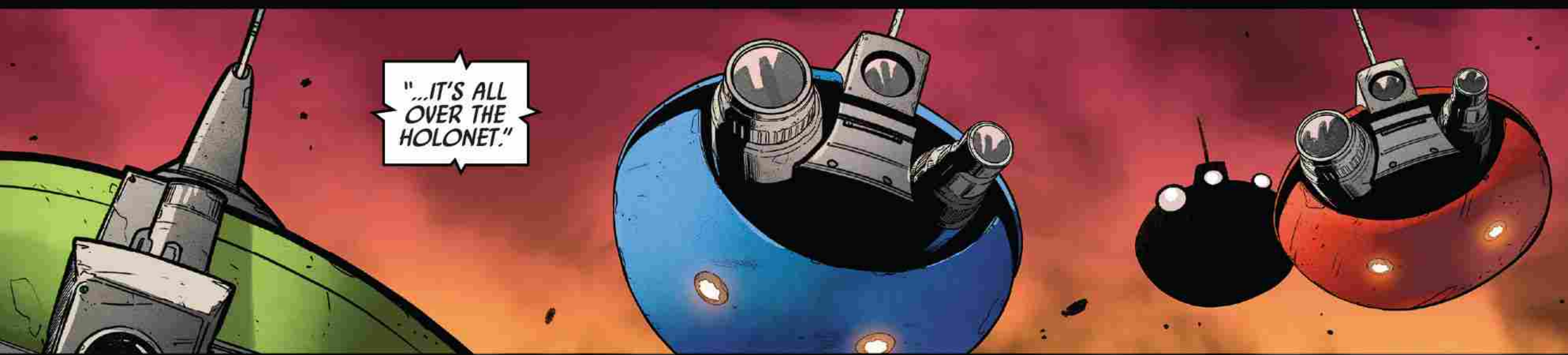
"YOU MADE IT! THANK THE LIGHT. GOOD TO HEAR YOUR VOICE."

"NOT ALL OF US. WE LOST FREYTA SMYTH AND BRYEN ROWNE."

"AH. THEY WERE GOOD PEOPLE AND INCREDIBLE PILOTS. AT LEAST THEIR SACRIFICES AREN'T IN VAIN."

"WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THE MISSION WAS A SETUP! THEY WERE WAITING FOR US. WE FAILED. LOST TWO GOOD PILOTS FOR NO REASON."

"LANDO...NOT FROM WHAT WE'RE SEEING. WHAT YOU AND YOUR TEAM ACCOMPLISHED..."



"...IT'S ALL
OVER THE
HOLONET."



GET THOSE
CAMERAS OUT OF
HERE. THE DAMAGE
IS DONE...BUT WE
DON'T NEED TO
ADVERTISE.

YES,
COMMANDER.



ON THE GOOD SIDE, THE REBELS
LOST SEVERAL PILOTS, AND ONE
HAS TO ASSUME THEY SENT
THEIR BEST.

PALPATINE
WON'T CARE ABOUT
A FEW REBELS. HOW
DID THIS EVEN
HAPPEN?

THEY GOT
OFF A FEW SHOTS BEFORE
OUR ANTI-AIR EMPLACEMENTS
DROVE THEM OFF. ONE OF
THEM MUST HAVE GOTTEN LUCKY.



LUCKY, EH? WHAT
A FUNNY CHOICE OF
WORDS. I SUSPECT
THE EMPEROR MAY
SEE THINGS RATHER
DIFFERENTLY WHEN
HE RETURNS.

SPEAKING
OF WHICH...
GET THE REPAIR
CREWS OUT HERE
IMMEDIATELY.



THERE'S NO
HIDING WHAT HAPPENED
HERE TODAY. PALPATINE
WILL KNOW, AND HE WILL TAKE
WHATEVER **CORRECTIVE**
ACTION HE THINKS
IS APPROPRIATE.

THAT SAID,
IF EITHER OF US
WANT A HOPE OF
SURVIVING, IT WOULD
PROBABLY BE
BEST...



"...NOT TO RUB
HIS FACE IN IT."

To be continued....

NEXT

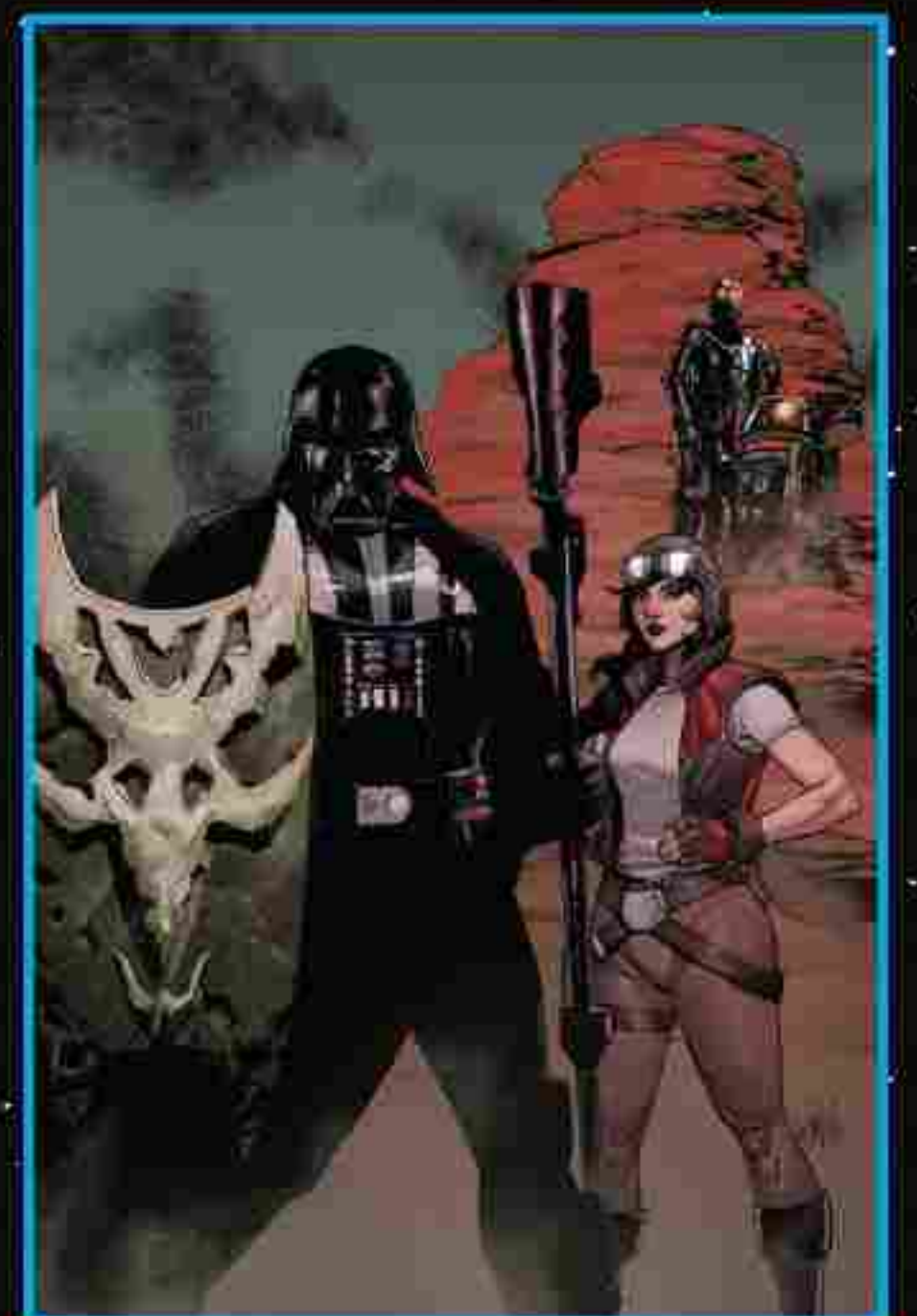
STAR WARS 37



THE SAGA ALSO
CONTINUES IN...



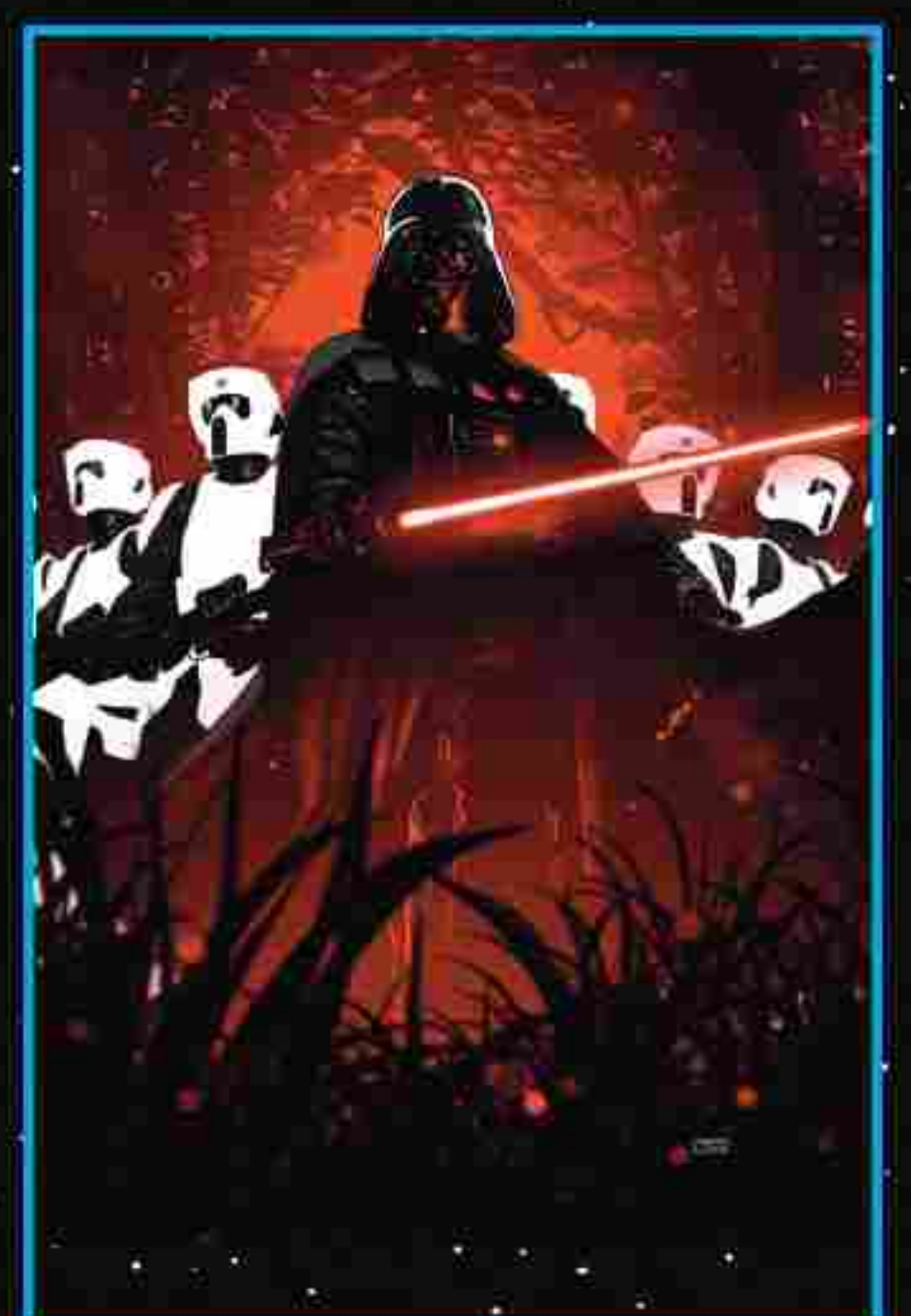
STAR WARS
36



STAR WARS
DARTH VADER 36



STAR WARS
BOUNTY HUNTERS 36



STAR WARS
DARTH VADER: BLACK,
WHITE & RED 4



STAR WARS
DOCTOR APHRA 34



STAR WARS
THE MANDALORIAN
SEASON 2 2



STAR WARS
RETURN OF THE JEDI:
THE REBELLION 1



STAR WARS
YODA 9

STAR WARS and related text and illustrations are trademarks and/or copyrights, in the United States and other countries, of Lucasfilm Ltd. and/or its affiliates. © & TM Lucasfilm Ltd. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Marvel and its logos are TM Marvel Characters, Inc. WWW.MARVEL.COM